

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An imaging apparatus comprising a mouse pad.
2. The imaging apparatus of claim 1 wherein said mouse pad comprises an object-to-be-imaged support surface.
3. The imaging apparatus of claim 1 wherein said imaging apparatus further comprises a camera positioned in spaced-apart relationship with said mouse pad.
4. The imaging apparatus of claim 3 wherein said camera comprises a digital camera.
5. The imaging apparatus of claim 2 wherein said camera has an image window and wherein said mouse pad is at least coextensive with said image window.
6. The imaging apparatus of claim 1 wherein said mouse pad comprises object-to-be-imaged positioning indicia.
7. The imaging apparatus of claim 6 wherein said object-to-be-imaged positioning indicia comprises graphics.
8. The imaging apparatus of claim 6 wherein said object-to-be-imaged positioning indicia comprises at least one peripheral edge portion of said mouse pad.

9. The imaging apparatus of claim 6 wherein said positioning indicia correspond to an image window of a camera.

10. The imaging apparatus of claim 1 wherein said mouse pad is physically attached to a base portion of said imaging apparatus.

11. A work assembly comprising:
a computer; and
an optical imaging apparatus operably connected to said computer and having an object-to-be-imaged locator comprising a mouse pad.

12. A computer mouse pad comprising indicia for aligning an object to be imaged with an imaging apparatus.

13. The mouse pad of claim 12 wherein said indicia comprise graphical indicia.

14. The mouse pad of claim 12 wherein said indicia comprise at least one peripheral edge portion of said mouse pad.

15. The mouse pad of claim 12 wherein said indicia correspond to an image window of said imaging apparatus.

16. An imaging apparatus comprising:
means for supporting an object to be imaged;

means for co-acting with a computer mouse;
wherein said means for supporting comprises said means for
co-acting.

17. A work assembly comprising:

means for computing having a computer mouse operably
connected thereto;

means for imaging an object; and

means for positioning said object relative to said imaging
means and for co-acting with said mouse.

18. A method of data acquisition and processing comprising:

placing a mouse pad in registration with the field of view of an
imaging device;

placing an object on the mouse pad; and

imaging the object on the mouse pad.

19. The method of claim 18 further comprising:

operating a computer mouse on the mouse pad.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein operating a computer mouse
on the mouse pad comprises operating the mouse with the mouse
pad in registration with the field of view of the imaging device.

21. The method of claim 19 wherein operating a computer mouse
on the mouse pad comprises operating the mouse with the mouse
pad removed from registration with the field of view of the imaging

pad removed from registration with the field of view of the imaging device.

22. A method of saving space on a desk top supporting a computer with a computer mouse and an overhead imaging device comprising:
providing a mouse pad adapted to co-act with the mouse; and
using the mouse pad as an object locator for the overhead imaging device.

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